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Immunogenicity and antigenic relationship of Salmonella enterotoxin with other enterotoxins.

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The immunogenicity and antigenic relationship of Salmonella enterotoxin with other enterotoxins were studied. The purified enterotoxin of Salmonella typhimurium strains was immunogenic in rabbits and antiserum produced against it completely neutralized the enterotoxic activity of purified as well as crude enterotoxins. The Salmonella enterotoxin did not cross-react with cholera toxin, heat-labile enterotoxin of Escherichia coli or Shiga toxin. On the other hand, enterotoxins produced by different serotypes of Salmonella were antigenically related. Heat, pH and proteolytic enzymes had not only adversely affected the enterotoxigenicity but also the antigenicity of the Salmonella enterotoxin. However, formalin was found to completely destroy the enterotoxigenicity of enterotoxin without affecting the antigenicity. Formalin-treated enterotoxin may thus be tried as a vaccine to prevent the diarrhoeal syndrome induced by enterotoxigenic salmonellae.

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